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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,034	05/29/2001	Roberto A. Macina	DEX-0207	5629
26259	7590	02/12/2004	EXAMINER	
LICATLA & TYRRELL P.C.			YU, MISOOK	
66 E. MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
MARLTON, NJ 08053			PAPER NUMBER	

1642

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/867,034

Applicant(s)

MACINA ET AL.

Examiner

MISOOK YU, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: Revised Interim Written Description
Training Example 7, pages 3, 30-32

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 11/24/2003 has been entered.

Claims 1 and 15 are pending and examined on merits.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

This Office action contains new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 is still rejected for a slightly different reason than the reason stated in the previous Office actions under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for SEQ ID NO:5, does not reasonably provide enablement for any other polynucleotide with 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:5. Applicant argues that the amended claim satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The argument has been fully considered but found unpersuasive because the specification does not teach how to make a polynucleotide with 97 % identity to SEQ ID NO:5 overexpressed in colon cancer. The specification at page 86 teaches that instant SEQ ID NO:5 is overexpressed in colon cancer samples as compared to normal colon tissue. The specification does not teach what structure instantly claimed polynucleotide encodes for if it encodes any.

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The specification does not teach which 97 % of instant SEQ ID NO:5 must be conserved in order to be overexpressed in colon cancer tissue. Therefore, it is concluded that the specification does not teach how to make polynucleotide with 97 % identity to SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 1 remains rejected and claim 15 is newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant argues that the amended claim satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The argument has been fully considered but found unpersuasive

This is based on the Written Description Guideline downloaded on 2/10/2004 from ([url>>www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/writtendesc.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/writtendesc.pdf)) at page 30-32 (Example 7). Note the attached pages 30-32 that is relevant for the instantly claimed invention. The claims are drawn to a genus of polynucleotides comprising SEQ ID NO:5 or polynucleotide with 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:5. There is a lack of written description for polynucleotides comprising SEQ ID NO:5 and polynucleotide with 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:5.

It appears that SEQ ID NO:5 is a partial cDNA. The specification does not teach what the claimed polynucleotide encode for or where in the structure a open reading frame start and end. The specification teaches at page 86 that SEQ ID

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NO:5 is overexpressed in colon cancer. The instant claims are drawn to a genus of polynucleotide that minimally contains SEQ ID NO:5 or polynucleotide with 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:5. The present claims encompasses full-length gene(s) and cDNAs that are not further described in the instant specification.

To provide adequate written description and evidence of possession of a claimed genus, the specification must provide sufficient distinguishing identifying characteristics of the genus. The factors to be considered include disclosure of complete or partial structure, physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics, structure/function correlation, methods of making the claimed product, or any combination thereof. In this case, the only factor present in the claim is a partial structure in the form of a recitation of percent identity. There is not even identification of any particular portion of the structure that must be conserved. Accordingly, in the absence of sufficient recitation of distinguishing identifying characteristics, the specification does not provide adequate written description of the claimed genus.

Weighing all factors, 1) partial structure of the DNA that comprises SEQ ID NO:5 or comprises DNA, or 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:5, 2) the breadth of the claims as reading on genes and naturally occurring variants yet to be discovered, 3) the lack of correlation between the structure and the function of the gene(s), one skilled in the art would not recognize from the disclosure that the applicant was in possession of the genus of DNA which comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

Conclusion


No claim is allowed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MISOOK YU, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0839. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne C Eyler can be reached on 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LARRY R. HELMS, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

MISOOK YU, Ph.D.
Examiner
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REVISED INTERIM WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

TRAINING EXAMPLES

Example 7: EST

Specification: The specification discloses SEQ ID NO: 16 which is a partial cDNA. The specification does not address whether the cDNA crosses an exon/intron splice junction. The specification discloses that this sequence will specifically hybridize with the complement of the coding sequence of a gene of an infectious yeast. The presence of the nucleic acid detected by hybridization with the complement of the coding sequence is useful for identifying yeast infections. Example 1 of the specification describes an experiment where SEQ ID NO: 16 was determined following characterization of a cDNA clone isolated from a cDNA library.

Claim:

An isolated DNA comprising SEQ ID NO: 16.

Analysis:

A review of the full content of the specification indicates SEQ ID NO: 16 is essential to the operation and function of the claimed invention. The specification indicates that the presence of DNA that hybridizes with SEQ ID NO: 16 is indicative of a yeast infection.

A review of the language of the claim indicates that the claim is drawn to a genus, i.e., any nucleic acid that minimally contains SEQ ID NO: 16 within it including any full length gene which contains the sequence, any fusion constructs or cDNAs.

The search indicates that SEQ ID NO: 16 is a novel and unobvious sequence.

There is a single species explicitly disclosed (a molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16 that is within the scope of the claimed genus).

There is actual reduction to practice of the disclosed species.

The disclosure of a single disclosed species may provide an adequate written description of a genus when the species disclosed is representative of the genus. The present claim encompasses full-length genes and cDNAs that are not further described. There is substantial variability among the species of DNAs encompassed within the scope of the claims because SEQ ID NO: 16 is only a fragment of any full-length gene or cDNA species. When reviewing a claim that encompasses a widely varying genus, the examiner must evaluate any necessary common attributes or features. In the case of a partial cDNA sequence that is claimed with open language (comprising), the genus of, e.g., “A cDNA comprising [a partial sequence],” encompasses a variety of subgenera with widely varying attributes. For example, a cDNA’s principle attribute would include its coding region. A partial cDNA that did not include a disclosure of any open reading frame (ORF) of which it would be a part, would not be representative of the genus of cDNAs because no information regarding the coding capacity of any cDNA molecule would be disclosed. Further, defining “the” cDNA in functional terms would not suffice in the absence of a disclosure of structural features or elements of a cDNA that would encode a protein having a stated function.

A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNAs, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus or of a recitation of structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a

substantial portion of the genus. Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly & Co., 119 F3d 1559, 1569, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Here, the specification discloses only a single common structural feature shared by members of the claimed genus, i.e., SEQ ID NO: 16. Since the claimed genus encompasses genes yet to be discovered, DNA constructs that encode fusion proteins, etc., the disclosed structural feature does not "constitute a substantial portion" of the claimed genus. Therefore, the disclosure of SEQ ID NO: 16 does not provide an adequate description of the claimed genus.

Weighing all factors, 1) partial structure of the DNAs that comprise SEQ ID NO: 16, 2) the breadth of the claim as reading on genes yet to be discovered in addition to numerous fusion constructs and cDNAs, 3) the lack of correlation between the structure and the function of the genes and/or fusion constructs; in view of the level of knowledge and skill in the art, one skilled in the art would not recognize from the disclosure that the applicant was in possession of the genus of DNAs which comprise SEQ ID NO: 16.

Conclusion: The written description requirement is not satisfied.